

Emily Dickinson



Presented by: Michaela Leinen, Bri Nelson, Liz Dresen, and Jarod Juhl

Emily Dickinson Biography

- DOB-12/10/1830 in Amherst, MA
- Very Intelligent at young age
- Father was very strict about a lot of things
- Her ancestors relate back to Puritans
- She wasn't very religious
- Wrote poems because of religion
- Calvinist
- Mt. Holyoke Female Seminary
- Died at the age of 55 from Bright's Disease (kidney degeneration)
- Wrote over 1,700 poems

Hope is the thing with
feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune--without
the words,
And never stops at all,
And sweetest in the gale is
heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little
bird
That kept so many warm.
I've heard it in the chilliest
land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

"Hope" is living
Inside you
It's always there to motivate

Keeps going no matter what
Even in the rough times it
appears
It has to be bad
In order to frustrate the "little
bird"
That keeps people in a
hopeful mood
It is there in doubt
And in fear
Never in it's greatest need
It asked anything of me

Poetic Devices- *"Hope is a Thing With Feathers"*

Anaphra- Lines 3-6 begin with "And"

Alliteration- Line 3 (without the words)
Line 10 (strangest sea)

Symbolism- Symbolizes people's hope with bird

Personification- Bird becomes personification of hope,
and Hope perches in the soul

Rhyme Scheme- Every other line rhymes
(Exception of lines 9 and 11)

Slant Rhyme- 1 and 3 (feathers, words)

Purpose/Characteristics- Hope is the...

- Hope is inside you. Line 2
- It does a lot without making much of a presence. Line 3

Poetic Devices- "*Success is Counted Sweetest*"

Rhyme Scheme- 2nd and 4th lines of every stanza rhyme

Imagery- 2nd stanza, soldier hoisting a flag in the air
3rd stanza, soldier dying in greatness of victory

Alliteration- (defeated, dying) Line 9

Symbolism- whole poem

*In defeat, we truly learn to appreciate the value of victory.
People who have never succeeded crave it most.

Purpose/Characteristics

- Person who lacks understands better than the successor.
Lines 1-2
- Loser know the meaning of victory better than the winner.
Lines 9-12
- Purple heart?

Poetic Devices- *"I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died"*

Symbolism- Does the fly symbolize Death, or the Devil?

Oxymoron- Line 7 (the last onset) Beginning of the End

Simile- comparing the air in the room as if it was during a storm

Imagery- "Eyes around--had wrung them dry--," picture the people standing around her drying their eyes

In this poem, what word is imitating a sound it represents?

What is it called when the use of certain words are used to imitate the sound of an object that it refers to?

Purpose/Characteristics- I Heard...

- She's awaiting her painless death, but yet its horrifying and gruesome
- Watchers are silent, but fly makes noise. Line 5
- Waiting to die? 9-12
- Fly being the only sense of aliveness?

Form/Structure

- Quatrain stanzas
- What type of poem expresses thoughts & feelings of a single speaker, musical, and focuses on single image or idea?

Hope is a Thing with Feathers

Line 11-12 impressive

emotions invoked: Greatful & Happy

Unusaulword choice: Gale & Extremity

*Success is Counted Sweetest
& I heard a Fly buzz when I died*

lines 9-12

Emotions invoked: appreciative

lines 1-4

Emotions invoked: Loneliness

Sources-

Pettinger, T. "Emily Dickinson Biography." *Biography Online*
| *Biographies of inspirational and famous people.*
26 June 2006. Web. 03 Feb. 2010. <http://www.biographyonline.net/poets/emily_dickinson.html>.

"I heard a fly buzz when I died." Web. 09 Feb. 2010.
<http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/cs6/fly.html>.